

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. Vehicle support structure comprised primarily of multi-walled lightweight panels having plane-parallel side surfaces, with at least one fitting mountable on the support structure, wherein an opening is cut out of a lightweight panel in the support structure, which opening is designated for a specific fitting,

wherein the fitting can be inserted into this opening such that it covers the opening completely; and

wherein a support arrangement on the fitting operates in conjunction with an edge of the opening in the lightweight panel to limit the insertion of said fitting.

2. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the fitting is inserted into a lightweight panel that limits a passenger space inside a vehicle.

3. Vehicle support structure according to claim 2, wherein the fitting is inserted into the lightweight panel of a support box, and the support box is comprised of a base area 10, a front wall and a panel arrangement that limits a front leg room area at the sides and above.

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4. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the lightweight panel that is equipped with the fitting is covered by an outer vehicle plating unit, with the fitting projecting into a space between the lightweight panel and the plating unit.

5. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the support arrangement of the fitting comprises a mounting flange which serves to reinforce the lightweight panel in the area around the opening.

6. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the cross section of the opening is designed to accommodate a penetrating cross section of the fitting.

7. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the fitting is fastened to the lightweight panel via the support arrangement.

8. Vehicle support structure according to claim 7, wherein the support arrangement is fastened to the lightweight panel via an adhesive bond.

9. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the fitting is held in place in its contact position on the lightweight panel via a ring flange, and

wherein the ring flange is slid over the end of the fitting that protrudes through the opening and is supported at the edge of the opening against the side surface of the lightweight panel that faces the support arrangement.

10. Vehicle support structure according to claim 3, wherein the fitting is a subassembly with a pedal.

11. Vehicle support structure according to claim 3, wherein the fitting is a steering console.

12. Vehicle support structure according to claim 1, wherein the fitting is a housing for electrical components.

13. Vehicle support structure according to claim 12, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the lightweight panel that is assigned to the fitting.

14. Vehicle support structure according to claim 3, wherein the fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

15. A passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

a plurality of planar light weight panels of a multi wall sandwich honeycomb construction connected together to form a passenger space section bounded by said panels, one of said panels having an opening with a predetermined shape and size, and

a fitting operable to support a vehicle device, which fitting is carried by the one of said panels,

wherein said fitting has a flange adjacent an insertion portion with a predetermined shape and size corresponding to the opening in said one of said panels to accommodate insertion of said fitting in said opening with said flange limiting the insertion movement of the fitting and forming a support surface for fixing the fitting to the one of said panels.

16. A passenger vehicle assembly according to Claim 15, wherein the lightweight panel that is equipped with the fitting is covered by an outer vehicle plating unit, with the fitting projecting into a space between the lightweight panel and the plating unit.

17. A method of making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

providing a plurality of planar light weight panels of a multiwall sandwich construction connecting the panels to one another to form a vehicle passenger space section,

providing a through opening in one of said panels,
providing a fitting operable to support a vehicle device, said fitting including a planar flange section and an insertion section protruding from one side of said planar flange section, said insertion section having a shape and size corresponding to said through opening, and

attaching said fitting to said one of said panels by inserting said insertion section into said through opening with said flange attaching a planar surface of the one of said panels and then fixing said flange and planar surface together.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said fixing includes applying an adhesive bond between said flange and said planar surface.

19. A method according to Claim 17, comprising attaching a ring flange to said insertion section at an opposite side of the through opening from the flange of the fitting.

20. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said flange is operable to reinforce the panel around said through opening.

21. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the fitting is a subassembly with a pedal.

22. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the fitting is a steering console.
23. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the fitting is a housing for electrical components.
24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the lightweight panel that is assigned to the fitting.
25. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

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